Tanfield

STANLEY,

FEBRUARY 10th, 1896.

GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to present you with my Report for that portion of the year dating from the formation of your Board, on June 15th, to the end of December, 1895, giving the amount of Sickness from Zymotic Diseases, Vital Statistics, and a General Account of the Sanitary Condition of the District.

The list of Zymotic Diseases is an exceedingly light one. The cases of notifiable diseases that were reported to me during the above period were as follows, viz. : 17 of Scarlatina, 7 of Enteric Fever, 3 of Erysipelas, 1 of Peuperal Fever and 1 of Croup, Total 29. Not a single case of non-notifiable disease came under my notice.

Scarlatina. A few cases of this disease were present in Tantobie, Tanfield Lea and Leazes in the months of June and July. The District was free until October when a fresh case appeared simultaneously at Burnopfield and Hobson, and from both sources solitary cases have occurred during the remainder of the year. The numbers given shew that it never assumed an epidemic form.

Enteric or Typhoid Fever. The following list gives the dates when, and the localities where, this Fever occurred, viz. : one case at Beamish in July, one at Burnopfield in August, one at Burnopfield in September, three at Lintz, and one at Tanfield in October The Beamish case caught the infection outside the district, and arrived with the malady developed. The initial case at the Lintz also originated outside, and directly infected the others. The Tanfield case was the result of a friendly visit to a patient suffering from the disease. As to those at Burnopfield there was nothing discoverable to account for their origin.

Erysipelas. The three cases reported were not connected one with the other.

Membranous Croup. One case was notified, but in the death returns two were given, probable neither were typical cases.

Puerperal Fever. It is just possible that the one case notified was merely an inflammatory attack.

Diarrhœa was less prevalent than usual, and presented no appearance of having a specific origin.

Influenza was prevalent, but characters of the true type were wanting.

All Medical Men practicing in the district were kind enough to report all cases of Infectious Disease, prior to the adoption of the "Notification Act."

VITAL STATISTICS.

The number of births registered during 29 weeks amounted to 139, and the deaths to 84—giving a birth rate of 35·26 and a death rate of 21 per 1000 per annum; estimating the population at 7030 Deaths from Infections Diseases, omitting Diarrhœa, were 4, being 4½ per cent of the whole.

Infantile Mortality has a bad record. 30 deaths occured under the age of 1 year, more than a third of the whole, and 12 between one and 5 years. These added together shew that half the total mortality were children under the age of 5 years. As infectious disease was not responsible for the excessive infantile death rate, there is no need to state the causes.

INSPECTOR'S DEPARTMENT.

Twenty-one new houses, having their sanitary requirements complete, have been built. Forty-six old houses having delapidations or otherwise in an unsanitary condition were repaired and made habitable. Houses situated at Mountsett, Clough Dene and Tanfield to the number of nine were reported as delapidated—and in some instances dangerous—and unfit for habitation, subsequently certificates were supplied for the purpose of taking proceedings to obtain closing orders. Beyond the repairing of one house, and the rebuilding of a fallen gable, the houses remain in their orginal state. A great number of houses have been spouted, but many still require the necessary water-course attached to the down pipes. There are several houses with unceiled bedrooms. The proprietors might be induced to make them more comfortable.

Five new outoffices have been built to old property, and eighteen have been put into good order. The owners of those combination privy-middens that are uncemented and uncovered should be requested to put them into better sanitary condition; the contents of those structures percolate through the walls, and are necessarily offensive. In all cases, however where delapidations occur, no patching up should be permitted, but reconstruction enforced

The outfall works connected to White-le-head and Tantobie act satisfactorily, and could dispose of a larger amount of sewage. Plans are being prepared for the sewering and the disposal of the sewage from Flint Hill, Clough Dene and a portion of Hobson, Friarside, and the Causey Rows will need some better arrangement for the sewage outflow. A scheme of sewage connecting the villages of Tanfield, East Tanfield and Tanfield Lea will have to be adopted. The sewage at present flows almost directly into the Houghal Burn.

The scavenging and removal of refuse are fairly well carried out, but it would be more effectually done if placed under the direct control of your Board.

The slaughter houses are satisfactory.

No prosecution under the "Food and Drugs Act" was necessary.

The water supply is good and abundant.

I remain, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

T. BENSON,

Medical Officer.

The Urban District Council,

Tanfield.

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Table of Deaths,

Classified according to DISEASES and AGES, from JUNE 15th.

	UNDER FIVE YEARS OF AGE.	FIVE YEARS OF AGE AND UPWARDS.
Scarlatina	0	1
Membranous Croup	0	2
Enteric or Typhoid Fever	0	1
Diarrhœa and Dysentery	2	0
Phthisis	0	4
Bronchitis, Pneumonia, and Pleurisy ...	12	6
Heart Disease	0	6
Injuries	1	0
All other Diseases	27	22
	42	42

Under One Year	30
One and Under Five	12
Five and under Fifteen	7
Fifteen and under Twenty-five... ...	6
Twenty-five and under Sixty-five ...	14
Sixty-five and upwards	15
At all ages ...	84

Table of Births, & New Cases of Infectious Diseases,

Classified according to DISEASES, AGES and LOCALITIES, from JUNE 15th.

Scarlatina	10	7
Membranous Croup	0	1
Enteric or Typhoid Fever	0	7
Puerperal	0	1
Erysipelas...	0	3

Registered Births.—139.

Census 1891.—6880. Estimated to middle of 1895.—7060.

Area 4650 -

TANFIELD

URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Annual Report

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

FOR THE YEAR 1895.

STANLEY,

FEBRUARY 22ND, 1896.